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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/067,263	02/07/2002	Munenori Sawada	111914	6681
25944	7590	12/01/2004	EXAMINER	
OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 19928 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320			LEWIS, DAVID LEE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2673	

DATE MAILED: 12/01/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/067,263

Applicant(s)

SAWADA, MUNENORI

Examiner

David L Lewis

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 February 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 4/02;6/03;1/04;2/4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

- (a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.
- (b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

1. **Claims 1-4, and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Klein et al. (6163326).**
2. **As in claim 1, Klein et al. teaches of an input system for a portable terminal, comprising a portable terminal, figure 1 item 20, which uses a control unit for input, figure 1 item 50, wherein: said control unit is detachably mounted on said portable terminal, figure 1 item 66,**
3. **As in claim 2, Klein et al. teaches of wherein: a plurality of control units are detachably mounted on said portable terminal, figure 1 item 50, figure 2 item 150, figure 3 item 251, figure 4 item 350, figure 5 item 450; and one or more control units can be selected from said plurality of control units and said portable terminal uses the selected control unit(s) for input, figure 1 item 50, figure 2 item 150, figure 3 item 251, figure 4 item 350, figure 5 item 450, column 2 lines 25-35. Wherein each control unit is manually selected to be inserted into the portable terminal.**
4. **As in claim 3, Klein et al. teaches of an input system for a portable terminal, figure 1 item 1, comprising a portable terminal, figure 1 item 20, which uses a plurality of control unit for input, figure 1 item 50, figure 2 item 150, figure 3 item 251, figure 4 item 350, figure 5 item 450, wherein: one or more control units can be selected from said**

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plurality of control units and said portable terminal uses the selected control unit(s) for input, column 7 lines 20-36.

5. **As in claim 4, Klein et al. teaches of** wherein: said control units are detachably mounted on said portable terminal, column 7 lines 20-36. **As in claim 12, Klein et al. teaches of** wherein: said portable terminal can be fitted with said control units, figure 5 item 439, column 8 lines 1-10. **As in claim 13, Klein et al. teaches of** wherein: said portable terminal uses the selected control unit for input, figure 1 item 50, figure 2 item 150, figure 3 item 251, figure 4 item 350, figure 5 item 450, column 8 lines 1-10. **As in claim 14, Klein et al. teaches of** wherein said control unit can be mounted on said portable terminal, column 8 lines 1-10.

6. **Claims 1-5, 8, and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Latocha et al. (5790371).**

7. **As in claim 1, Latocha et al. teaches of** an input system for a portable terminal, comprising a portable terminal, **figure 3a**, which uses a control unit for input, **figure 1b**, **column 6 lines 49-68**, wherein: said control unit is detachably mounted on said portable terminal, **column 5 lines 15-20, figure 3a,b**. Wherein Latocha teaches of a device functioning as both a portable terminal and input device that can be detachably mounted to like portable terminal/input devices.

8. **As in claim 2, Latocha et al. teaches of** wherein: a plurality of control units are detachably mounted on said portable terminal, column 5 lines 15-20, column 6 lines 49-68; and one or more control units can be selected from said plurality of control units and said portable terminal uses the selected control unit(s) for input, column 4 lines 10-20, column 5 lines 15-20, column 6 lines 49-68. Wherein Latocha teaches of a device functioning as both a portable terminal and input device that can be detachably mounted to like portable terminal/input devices.

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9. **As in claim 3, Latocha et al. teaches of** an input system for a portable terminal, figure 1 item 1, comprising a portable terminal, figure 3a, column 5 lines 15-20, column 6 lines 49-68, wherein: one or more control units can be selected from said plurality of control units and said portable terminal uses the selected control unit(s) for input, column 4 lines 10-20, column 5 lines 15-20, column 6 lines 49-68. Wherein Latocha teaches of a device functioning as both a portable terminal and input device that can be detachably mounted to like portable terminal/input devices. **As in claim 4, Latocha et al. teaches of** wherein: said control units are detachably mounted on said portable terminal, column 5 lines 15-20.

10. **As in claim 5, Latocha et al. teaches of** wherein: said portable terminal comprises contact detection plates for detecting contact on plate surfaces and accepts input from said control units based on the result of detection performed by said contact detection plates, figure 3a items fm and m, column 5 lines 15-35; and each of said control units comprises movable contacts which, when said control unit is mounted on said portable terminal in such away as to lie on one of said contact detection plates, come into and out of contact with said contact detection plate by move, figure 3a items fm and m (or figure 3b item G), column 5 lines 15-35. **As in claim 8, Latocha et al. teaches of** wherein: said portable terminal comprises portable-terminal-side connection terminals for connecting electrically with said control units and accepts input from said control units through electrical communications with said portable-terminal-side connection terminals, figure 3a items fm and m (or figure 3b item G), column 5 lines 15-35; and each of said control units comprises a control-unit-side connection terminal for connecting electrically with one of said portable-terminal-side connection terminals and operation means to be operated by the user, figure 3a items fm and m (or figure 3b item G), column 5 lines 15-35, and in response to the operation of said operation means, changes the content of electrical signals associated with electrical communications between said control-unit-side connection terminal and said portable-terminal-side connection terminal, column 3 lines 15-35, column 4 lines 15-23. **As in claim 12, Latocha et al. teaches of** wherein: said portable terminal can be fitted with said control

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units, figure 3a,b. **As in claim 13, Latocha et al. teaches of** wherein: said portable terminal uses the selected control unit for input, column 6 lines 49-67. **As in claim 14, Latocha et al. teaches of** wherein said control unit can be mounted on said portable terminal, column 5 lines 15-20. **As in claim 15, Latocha et al. teaches of** consisting of a computer system, wherein said program is program which is executed operation, said operation can be selected one or more control units from said plurality of control units and makes input to be accepted in said portable terminal via the selected control unit. **As in claim 16, Latocha et al. teaches of** consisting of a computer system, wherein said program is program which is executed operation, said operation makes input to be accepted in said portable terminal via the selected control unit, column 3 lines 15-35, column 4 lines 15-23.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

11. Claims 6, 7, and 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Klein et al.(6163326) in view of Yatsu et al. (6369798).

As in claims 6, 7, 9, and 10, Klien teaches of the invention as applied above in claims 1-4. **However Klien is silent as to** said ID contacts and detection plate. **Yatsu et al. teaches of** a device identical to Klien wherein the equivalent of said ID contracts and detection plate are taught, column 8 lines 18-35, figure 5 items 88 and 90, figure 10 item

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38 and 50. Wherein said contact switch determines the type of input device being used, whether touch input or trackball input. **Therefore it would have been obvious** to the skilled artisan at the time of the invention to modify the device of Klein as enhanced by Yatsu because they both teach of like inventions who features solve a like problem facilitating the input of a plurality of input devices into a computer for the purpose of inputting data, and therefore represent alternative means to solve the same problem, as found in claims 6, 7, 9, and 10. **As in claim 11**, said feature wherein said portable terminal requires, during application start-up, for one or more of said control units to be selected and when one or more control units are selected, accepts input for the application from the selected control unit(s), **would have been obvious to the skilled artisan over Klien in view of Yastu** given said functioning is based on the above ID contacts and detection plate which will be in place at start-up, causing the appropriate functioning.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. 6107990, 2002/0145590, 6788285, 6369795, 6747635, 5726684.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **David L. Lewis** whose telephone number is **(703) 306-3026**. The examiner can normally be reached on MT and THF from 8 to 5. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Bipin

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Shalwala, can be reached on (703) 305-4938. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Group receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231


or faxed to:

(703) 872-9314 (for Technology Center 2600 only)

Hand-delivered responses should be brought to Crystal Park II, 2121 Crystal Drive, Arlington, VA, Sixth Floor (Receptionist).

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the Technology Center 2600 Customer Service Office whose telephone number is (703) 306-0377.

November 29, 2004


BIPIN SHALWALA
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600